

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 05602 231105Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 231015Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4357

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5602

EXDIS

USUN FOR SECRETARY, SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PO, AO, PINS

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE POLICY ON ANGOLA

REFS: (A) STATE 226196, (B) KINSHASA 8558

1. I KNOW OF NO PLANS TO TURN OVER PORTUGUESE EQUIPMENT TO MPLA. LUANDA IS IN A BETTER POSITION THAN I TO INDICATE WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST. LEAVING BEHIND UNSERVICEABLE EQUIPMENT IS OF COURSE A STANDARD MILITARY PRACTICE.

2. I DO NOT SEE ANY REASON TO QUESTION MELO ANTUNES'S SINCERITY. I DO QUESTION, HOWEVER, HIS AND THE GOP'S CAPACITY TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA. I THINK MELO ANTUNES WILL DO WHAT HE CAN, BUT WHAT HE CAN DO IS LIMITED. COP HAS ONLY 22,000 TROOPS IN ANGOLA, AND NONE OF THEM WANTS TO BE THE LAST TO DIE.

3. GOP ANGOLAN POLICY WILL BE DEVELOPED INDEPENDENTLY OF WHAT WE DO ON THE AIRLIFT. REFUSING THEIR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE WILL ONLY SLOW THE RATE OF RETURN OF REFUGEES; THE FACT THAT THERE ARE MORE OR FEWER REFUGEES IN ANGOLA IS NOT A SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT IN GOP POLICY DELIBERATIONS. THEIR REACTION TO AN EXPLICIT LINK BETWEEN

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OUR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND THEIR ANGOLAN POLICY IS

LIKELY TO BE HIGHLY NEGATIVE. SINCE LEAKS ARE INEVITABLE I WOULD EXPECT RENEWED CHARGES IN THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED MEDIA THAT THE USG IS BLACKMAILING THEM. THIS IN TURN COULD MAKE THEM LESS RESPONSIVE TO OUR CONCERNS.

4. WE MADE VERY EXPLICIT COMMITMENTS OF ASSISTANCE TO ANTUNES SHOULD THE "MODERATES" GET IN POWER. WE WOULD CALL INTO QUESTION OUR GOOD FAITH WERE WE NOW TO EXACT CONDITIONS ON HIS POSSIBLE FIRST REQUEST TO US, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE REQUEST IS OF A HUMANITARIAN NATURE, AND SERVES OUR COMMON INTEREST BY BROADENING ANTI-COMMUNIST BASE HERE.

5. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HIGHLY PROPER, HOWEVER, TO DISCUSS THE EQUIPMENT ISSUE WITH HIM AND TO INSIST THAT NOTHING BE TURNED OVER TO ANY OF THE FACTIONS. PERHAPS WE COULD OFFER TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN TRANSPORTING EQUIPMENT. I COULD ALSO DISCUSS WITH ANTUNES ANY NEW EVIDENCE WE OR GOZ MIGHT HAVE OF GOP SUPPORT FOR MPLA. I THINK WE MIGHT GET BEST RESULTS IF I WERE TO DO THIS AT THE TIME WE INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO DOUBLE THE AIRLIFT.  
CARLUCCI

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